

Remarks

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. Section 112

Claims 7 through 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 112 for lack of antecedent basis. Claim 1 has been amended to recite an airsleeve, and claim 10 has been canceled. Claim 11 has likewise been amended and claim 20 canceled. Applicants urge that the claims now have antecedent basis.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a)

The claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 03268942 in view of Iwami, US 3525703 (applied to claims 1 through 2, 5 through 6, 8 through 12, 15 through 16, and 18 through 20), and further in view of JP1268736 (applied to claims 3 and 13) or Igarashi, US 5348779 (applied to claims 4, 7, 14 and 17). To the extent the amended claims are deemed unpatentable over the cited art, these rejections are traversed.

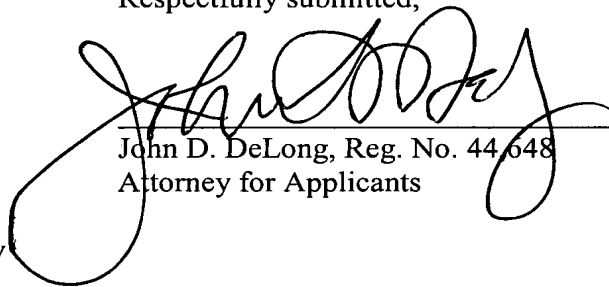
Claims 1, 8, 9, 11, 18 and 19 have been amended to recite an upper limit of 2 parts by weight for the hydrotalcite concentration. Support is found in the specification as filed at page 15, Table 3 (Sample 9).

JP 03268942, cited for its teaching of hydrotalcite in a polychloroprene compound, teaches a concentration range of 3 to 50 parts by weight (english abstract). Nowhere does JP 03268942 nor any of the other cited art teach the use of hydrotalcite in a polychloroprene compound in an airsleeve, wherein the hydrotalcite concentration is from about 0.1 to 2 parts by weight. Further, the data of the current specification show that use of 2 parts by weight of hydrotalcite in a polychloroprene compound results in superior adhesion to greater concentrations of MgO or CaO (Sample 9 v Samples 7 and 8). Such adhesion behavior at such low hydrotalcite concentration is unexpected and surprising in view of the teaching of JP 03268942, which teaches that 3 to 50 parts by weigh is needed. Applicants urge that the claims as amended are not obvious in view of the cited art.

Conclusion

Applicants urge that the claims are now patentable over the cited art and respectfully request allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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